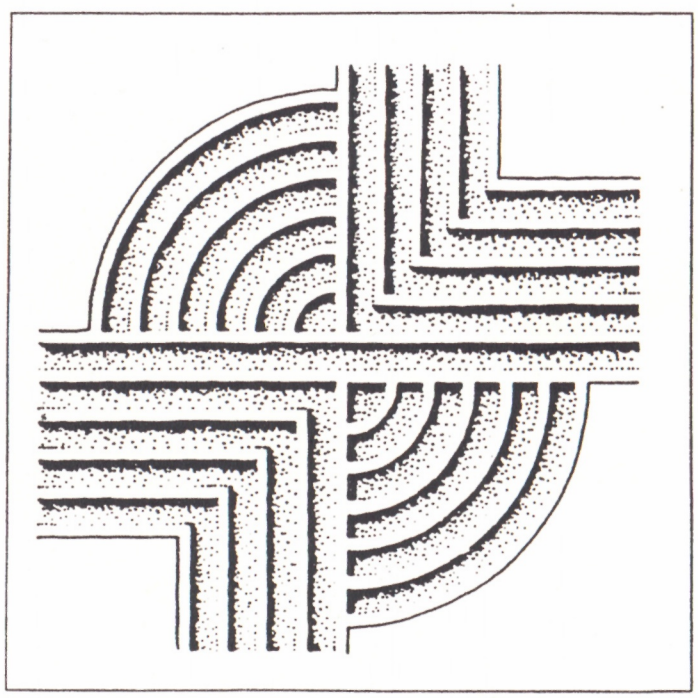
CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF A 17 ACRE TRACT IN MARION, MCDOWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 389

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ABSTRACT

This study reports on an intensive cultural resources survey of a 17 acre tract located in central McDowell County, North Carolina. The work was conducted to assist Froehling & Robertson, Inc. comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations codified in 36CFR800.

The tract, which borders US 70 to the south and a commercial strip mall to the east, is also to be used for commercial development. The area surrounding the survey tract is also being commercially developed for this growing portion of McDowell County.

The proposed undertaking will require the clearing of the tract, followed by construction of various infrastructure elements, such as roads, stormwater drainage, and utilities. Individual lot construction will involve grading, additional utility construction, and subsequent building of structures. These activities have the potential to affect archaeological and historical sites and this survey was conducted to identify and assess archaeological and historical sites which may be in the project tract. For this study and area of potential effect (APE) about 1,000 feet from the proposed tract was assumed.

An investigation of the archaeological site files at the Asheville, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources identified five sites, 31MC39-41, 31MC200-201. Site 31MC39 is an Archaic site, 31MC40 is a late Woodland to Mississippian occupation, and 31MC41 is a mound. It was suggested in the 1994 site form for 31MC39 (recorded by Kenneth W. Robinson) that all three sites may be part of the same complex. Site 31MC200 is the McDowell House and grounds which was recorded in 1994 by Kenneth W. Robinson. At the time the site was recorded, research potential was thought to be low. The building now stands as a museum. Site 31MC201 is the McDowell/Carson Cemetery, recorded by Kenneth W. Robinson in 1994.

The archaeological survey of the tract incorporated shovel testing at 50-foot intervals on transects which were placed at 50-foot intervals. All shovel test fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh and the shovel tests were backfilled at the completion of the study. A total of 255 shovel tests were excavated along 21 transect lines. In addition, three deep cuts (measuring approximately 20 feet in length by 4 feet in depth) and two mechanical scrapes (measuring approximately 20 feet by 5 feet) were excavated.

As a result of these investigations one archaeological site, 31MC309, was found. This site consists of a surface and subsurface scatter of non diagnostic flakes and small sherds. While possibly associated with 31MC39-41, this site has been impacted by commercial development to the east and appears to be heavily plow damaged. It is unlikely that this site will be able to address any significant research questions due to extensive cultivation.

Finally, it is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered in the project area during clearing activities. Crews should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office or to Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No construction should take place in the vicinity of these late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

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INTRODUCTION

This investigation was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Buddy Hill of Froehling & Robertson, Inc. in Greenville, SC. The work was conducted to assist Froehling & Robertson and their client comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations codified in 36CFR800.

The project site consists of a 17 acre tract proposed to be used for commercial development in Marion, North Carolina (Figure 1). The survey area is square in shape with the southern portion bordering US 70 and the eastern portion adjacent to commercial development (Figure 2). The northern and western boundaries are found along cultivated fields.

The tract consists of fairly flat topography with some areas containing standing water. The survey encountered mostly cultivated fields, but an area of hardwoods was also located on the tract in the southeast corner adjacent to a vegetable stand and small packing shed. The surrounding area is fairly rural, however, commercial development is rapidly occurring.

The tract, as previously mentioned, is intended to be used for commercial development. This work will require the construction of utilities such as electrical lines as well as an expanded road system when development begins. There will likely be increased short-term noise, traffic, and dust levels associated with the project. These activities have the potential to cause extensive damage to any archaeological resources which may be present on the tract.

This study, however, does not consider any future secondary impact of the project, including increased or expanded development of this portion of McDowell County.

We were requested by Mr. Buddy Hill of Froehling & Robertson, Inc. to provide a proposal for the survey on July 3, 2003. A proposal was supplied on the same day. Field work on the project began on August 18.

Initial background investigations incorporated a review of the site files at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and the office of State Archaeology. As a result of that work, five sites, 31MC39-41, 31MC200-201, were identified. Site 31MC39 is an Archaic site, 31MC40 is a late Woodland to Mississippian occupation, and 31MC41 is a mound. It was suggested in the 1994 site form for 31MC39 (recorded by Kenneth W. Robinson) that all three sites may be part of the same complex. Sites 31MC40-41 were initially tested by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Ward1977), with additional research conducted by Moore 2002). Site 31MC200 is the McDowell House and grounds which was recorded in 1994 by Kenneth W. Robinson. At the time the site was recorded, research potential was thought to be low. The house is now a museum. Site 31MC201 is the McDowell/Carson Cemetery, recorded by Kenneth W. Robinson in 1994.

Archival and historical research was limited to a review of secondary sources available in the Chicora Foundation files.

The archaeological survey was conducted from August 19-22, 2003 by Mr. Tom Covington and Ms. Nicole Southerland under the direction of Dr. Michael Trinkley. Additional testing was performed on August 28, 2003.

This report details the investigation of the project area undertaken by Chicora Foundation and the results of that investigation.


PROJECT VICINITY
MCDOWELL
BURKE
RUTHERFORD
POLK
AVERY
CALDWELL
Marion
Morganton
Lenoir
Hickory
Rutherfordton
Spindale
Forest City
Ellenboro
Old Fort
Black Mtn
Asheville
Bakersville
Roan High Knob 6285
Mt. Mitchell
Linville
Blowing Rock
Boone
Banner Elk
Newland
Pineola
Crossnore
Table Rock
Lake James
Lake Lure
Chimney Rock
Bat Cave
Sunshine
Hollis
Polkville
Fallston
Lawndale
Double Shoals
Metcalf
Washburn
Cleveland
Toluca
Belwood
Pleasant Grove
Enola
Salem
Brindletown
Dysartsville
Glenwood
Providence
Thermal City
Whitehouse
Sugar Hill
Union Mills
Shingle Hollow
Glenn Alpine
Bridgewater
Oak Hill
Drexel
Rutherford College
Chesterfield
Hartland
Gamewell
Hudson
Valmead
Gallettsville
Patterson
Globe
Upton
Grace
Minneapolis
Cranberry
Foscoe
Bamboo
Heaton
Batm
Matney
Elk Park
Banner Elk
Montezuma
Plumtree
Pratte
Altamont
Edgemont
Mortimer
Jones Ridge
Chestnut Mtn
Hawksbill Mtn
Table Rock
Woodlawn
Bowditch
Altapass
Spruce Pine
Penland
Bandana
Ledger
Kona
Burnsville
Micaville
Estatoe
Celo
Little Switzerland
North Cove
Marchison
Graphite
Montreat
Ridgecrest
Moffitt Hill
Vein Mtn
Sugarloaf Mtn
Lake Lure
Edneyville
Sunny View
Ruth
Hopewell
Bostic
Pea Ridge
Mill Spring
Alexander
Danielltown
Gilkey
Westminster
Logan
Greenlee
W Marion
Clinchfield
Pleasant Gardens
Green Mtn
Day Book
Higgins
Burnsville
Gap
Vixen
Celo
Marchison
Graphite
Montreat
Ridgecrest
Black Mtn
Innanoa
Mt. Mitchell
Busick
Lake Tahoma
Lake James
Catawba River
Linville River
Johns River
Henry
Silver
Rocky Knob
Table Rock
Hawksbill Mtn
Chestnut Mtn
Jones Ridge
Linville Falls
Linville Gorge
Wilson Creek
Lower Creek

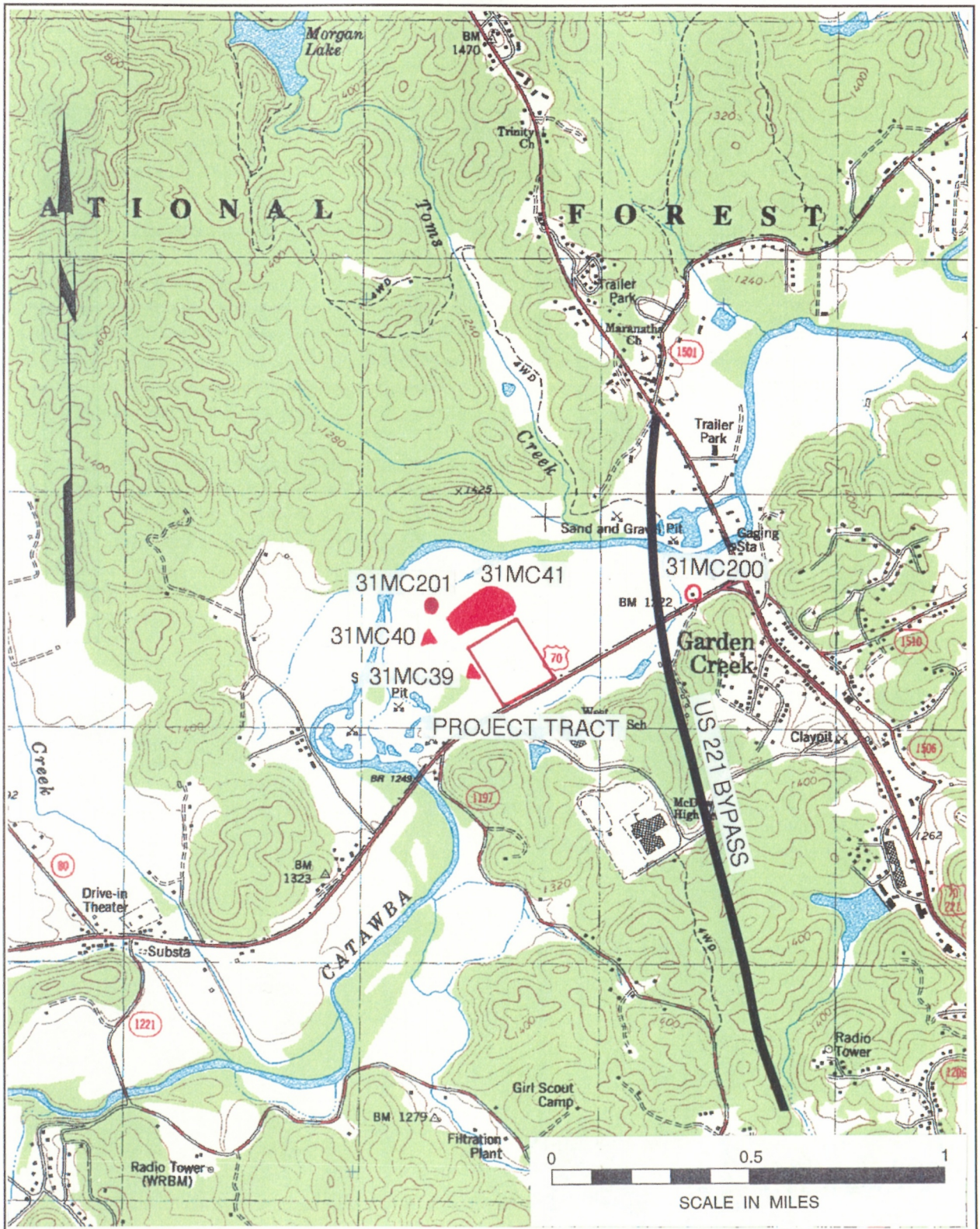

Figure 2. Project tract and previously identified archaeological sites (basemap is USGS Marion West 7.5').

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Physiography

The project tract is located in McDowell County, North Carolina. It is located at the boundary of the Mountain and the foothills of the Upper Piedmont area of the state. To the north, McDowell County is bordered by Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery counties, to the east is Burke County, to the west is Buncombe County, and to the south is Rutherford County.

The Piedmont, bounded on the east by the Fall Line and on the west by the Blue Ridge scarp, is about 142 miles wide in North Carolina. The name itself means "foot of the mountains," an appropriate term for topography which is characterized by rolling eroded plateaus, rounded hills, and low ridges.

Elevations in the county range from 980 feet AMSL (above mean sea level) along Cane Creek near Rutherford County to 5,665 feet on Pinnacle Mountain near Buncombe and Yancey counties (Mohler et al. 2001).

The Piedmont has dominated the topography of North Carolina, giving rise to many descriptions. One recounts that:

> the tumultuous continuity of mountains subsides into gentle undulations, a secession of hills and dales, a variety and charm of landscape, alike different from the high, uplifted mountain elevations and the flat monotony of the plains or levels of the east. Every step brings into view some new charm, some new arrangement of the rounded hills, some new grouping of the tracts of forest which still cover so large a part of the country. The hills, indeed, in their gracefully curving outlines, present lines of beauty with which the eye of taste is never satiated. These area attractions which depend upon the

Figure 3. View of cultivated field on the survey tract looking east toward the current commercial development.

permanent features of the landscape, and which, though infinitely heightened in their effects by the verdure of spring and summer, are only brought into fuller relief by the nakedness of winter (State Board of Agriculture 1896:24).

Climate

The state of North Carolina lies within a general climatic region known as the Humid Subtropical. Moisture is adequate throughout the year, historically supporting very dense forests and an exceptional range of agricultural crops. Temperatures are moderate with long (and often hot, humid) summers and brief winters (with cold, dank conditions). Snowfall occurs, but is usually limited to the mountains. Gade et al. note that:

> air masses accounting for this climate are controlled by a variety of locational phenomena such as latitude, altitude, mountain barriers, and land and water surface differences . . . . Warm, moist air from the maritime tropics dominates summer conditions while cooler, drier continental polar air controls winter weather (Gade et al. 1986:15).

In general, the Piedmont enjoys this favorable climate. The relatively moderate temperatures, coupled with adequate precipitation and generally well drained clay soils creates a setting favorable for a wide variety of crops and native plants. The average winter temperature for McDowell County 46°F with the average daily minimum temperature 29°F (Mathis 1995:2). For the summer the average temperature is 75°F. The high temperatures in the summer can average about 86°F.

The most precipitation falls from April through September, accounting for about 51% of the total annual precipitation of 56 inches (Mathis 1995:2). Snowfall averages about 13 inches per year with the greatest snow depth on record being 10 inches.

Geology and Soils

North Carolina exhibits increasing age and complexity of rock types from east to west, resulting from the various periods of uplift and subsidence with accompanying erosion and later deposition of materials. The Piedmont contains a range of primarily crystalline rocks alternating with sedimentary in down faulted basins. One

Figure 4. View of low, wet area next to a grove of hardwoods.

such area, the Carolina Slate Belt, is derived from volcanic sediments and is an important source of fine grained quarry rock as well as a range of raw materials for Native American knappers. In the western part of this slate belt, especially in Davidson and Cabarrus counties, there are many veins impregnated with gold bearing ores. Situated between the Brevard Fault to the west and the Gold Hill Fault to the east, McDowell County is dominated by gneiss and schist rocks of the Paleozoic Era. These rocks are likewise penetrated by numerous veins which exhibit small quantities of gold ore, often mixed with copper and iron ores. The State Board of Agriculture (1896:70) observed that the South Mountains, in Burke, McDowell, and Rutherford counties were particularly noted for their gold ores mixed with quartz rock.

The Upper Piedmont, where the survey was conducted, consists of soils originating from the weathering of rock formations. According to Burke and Brinkley (1914), fine textured rock contributes to the formation of clay and clay loams, while coarse grained rock forms the basis for the coarser soils such as sand and silt loams.

The depths of the plowed soils within the tract ranged from 0.8 to over 1.5 feet in depth. The most common soil type is the Rosman Series (Mathis 1995). This well drained soil has an Ap horizon of dark brown (10YR3/3) loam to a depth of almost 1.0 foot over a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loam which can occur to a depth of over 3.3 feet.

Also occurring on the tract are Dillard soils (Mathis 1995). This series of well drained soils has an Ap horizon of dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) loam to a depth of 0.8 foot over a yellowish brown (10YR5/4) loam to a depth of just over 1.0 foot.

Also found on the southern portion of the tract are loamy udorthents. These are soils which have been altered by excavation or covered by fill. In this case, it is possible that the widening of the adjacent road US 70 has caused fill to be deposited along the roadside.

Erosion here, like elsewhere in this portion of the Piedmont, is primarily the result of increasingly erosive land-use activities during the postbellum, peaking by the early twentieth century (see Trimble 1974). Rutherford County, just south of McDowell County, has likely seen the loss of between 0.8 and 1.1 feet of soil, primarily the result of poor agricultural techniques. This portion of McDowell has seen similar results. Although agricultural practices are considerably different tody, erosion can still be locally severe, especially depending on the activities that take place. For example, wildfires can result in the erosion of up to about 0.05 ton per acre per year. However, mechanical site preparation, typically found in many timber stands, can cause the extraordinary erosion rate of 0.45 tons per acre per year (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1983:25).

Floristics

Today, three centuries of human activity have dramatically altered the Piedmont vegetation, crating a patchwork of forest land dominated by pine and cultivated land, including pasture. Early settlers found a continuous oak-hickory forest on the uplands and a mixture of broadleaf species on the floodplains. The clearing, cultivation, and subsequent abandonment of land not only promoted erosion, but also the sub-climax dominance of pine.

The current project area is still in cultivation, however, a small wooded section of hardwoods is also within the boundaries. This type of vegetation, referred to as the Oak-Chestnut Forest Region by Braun (1950) generally includes chestnut oak, scarlet oak, yellow poplar, and white oak. In addition a large portion of poison ivy grows as the understory.

While McDowell County is suited for an array of different wildlife, including fox, bears, and bobcats, the cultivated fields in the survey area seem better suited for deer and rabbits.

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC SYNTHESIS

Previous Research

McDowell County has been the location of several projects. More recently several compliance projects have taken place (see for example Jordan and Southerlin 1997; Mohler et al. 2001).

Closer to the current project area are several sites originally recorded in 1977 (Ward 1977). One site, 31MC41, the McDowell site, is located just north of the current project area. This site is comprised of a mound and pit features and postholes. The ceramics have been carbon dated to the fifteenth century and is made of rectilinear complicated-stamped motifs (Ward and Davis 1999:190-191; Moore 1981, 2002).

Prehistoric Synthesis

Overviews for North Carolina's prehistory, while of differing lengths and complexity, are available in virtually every compliance report prepared. There are, in addition, some "classic" sources well worth attention, such as Joffre Coe's *Formative Cultures* (Coe 1964), as well as some new general overviews (such as Ward 1983). These can be supplemented with a broad range of theses and dissertations produced by students of North Carolina's colleges and universities. Also extremely helpful, perhaps even essential, are a handful of recent local synthetic statements, such as that offered by Sassaman and Anderson (1994) for the Middle and Late Archaic. Only a few of the many sources are included in this study, but they should be adequate to give the reader a "feel" for the area and help establish a context for the various sites identified in the study area.

In the Carolina Piedmont, lithic scatters are the most common type of prehistoric site encountered. Goodyear et al. (1979:131-145) found that sites containing lithic scatters located in the inter-riverine Piedmont were geographically extensive and exhibited little artifact diversity. These sites have been interpreted as:

> limited or specialized activity sites which represent resource exploitation or other distinct functions. Nearly all investigators working in the Piedmont have related these sites to activities involving hunting, nut gathering, and procuring of lithic raw materials (Canouts and Goodyear 1985:185).

Although the vast majority of these sites are located in eroded areas and exhibit little to no subsurface integrity, Canouts and Goodyear (1985) argue that they have analytical value. This value lies in their horizontal rather than vertical dimensions. They argue that:

> future investigators of upland sites must effect broad-scale spatial analyses comparable to the temporal analyses effected through excavation of deeply stratified sites. Both endeavors are necessary, and neither is sufficient for the total understanding of Piedmont prehistory (Canouts and Goodyear 1985:193).

One observation that Canouts and Goodyear (1985) made is that lithic raw material ratios change through time. For instance, at the Gregg Shoals site in Elbert County, Georgia, the Early Archaic assemblage reflects greater use of

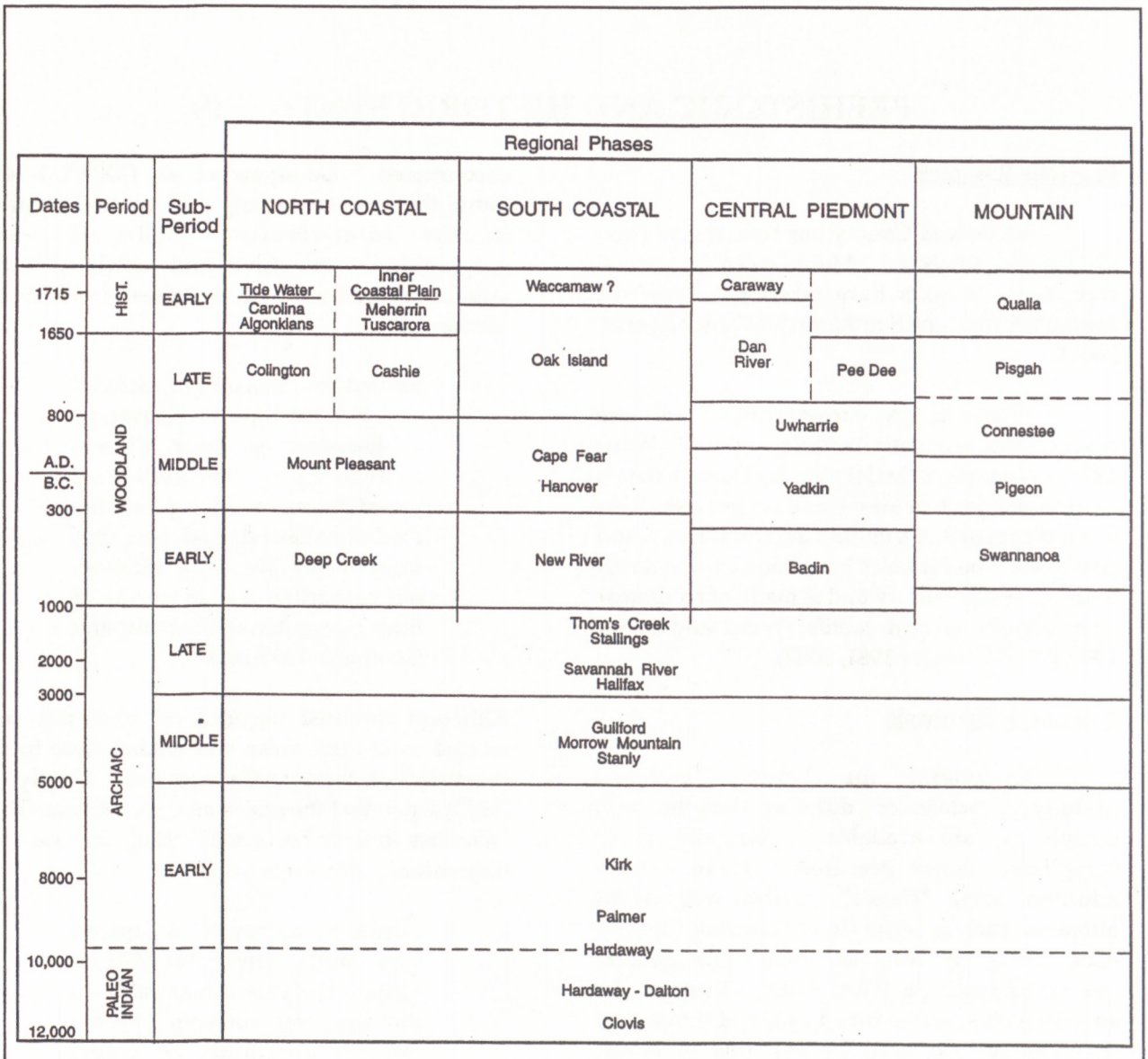

Figure 5. Generalized cultural sequence for North Carolina.

non-local cryptocrystalline materials and the Late Archaic, greater use of non-quartz local material (see Tippitt and Marquardt 1981).

Paleoindian Period

The Paleoindian Period, most commonly dated from about 12,000 to 10,000 B.P., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notch projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points, side scrapers, end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1965). Oliver (1981, 1985) has proposed to extend the Paleoindian dating in the North Carolina Piedmont to perhaps as early as 14,000 B.P., incorporating the Hardaway Side-Notched and Palmer Corner-

Notched types, usually accepted as Early Archaic, as representatives of the terminal phase. This view, verbally suggested by Coe for a number of years, has considerable technological appeal.[1] Oliver suggests a continuity from the Hardaway Blade through the Hardaway-Dalton to the Hardaway Side-Notched, eventually to the Palmer Side-Notched (Oliver 1985:199-200). While convincingly argued, this approach is not universally accepted.

The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented toward the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124). Survey data for Paleoindian tools, most notably fluted points, is rather dated for North Carolina (Brennan 1982; Peck 1988; Perkinson 1971, 9173; cf. Anderson 1990). In spite of this, the distribution offered by Anderson (1992b:Figure 5.1) reveals a rather general, and widespread, occurrence throughout the region.

Distinctive projectile points include lanceolates such as Clovis, Dalton, perhaps the Hardaway, and Big Sandy (Coe 1964; Phelps 1983; Oliver 1985). A temporal sequence of Paleoindian projectile points was proposed by Williams (1965:24-51), but according to Phelps (1983:18) there is little stratigraphic or chronometric evidence for it. While this is certainly true, a number of authors, such as Anderson (1992a) and Oliver (1985) have assembled impressive data sets. We are inclined to believe that while often not conclusively proven by stratigraphic excavations (and such proof may be an unreasonable expectation), there is a large body of circumstantial evidence. The weight of this evidence tends to provide considerable support.

Unfortunately, relatively little is known about Paleoindian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization (see, however, Anderson 1992b for an excellent overview and synthesis of what is known). Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleoindian groups were at a band level of society, were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

Archaic Period

The Archaic Period, which dates from 10,000 to 3,000 B.P.[2], does not form a sharp break

[1] While never discussed by Coe at length, he did observe that many of the Hardaway points, especially from the lowest contexts, had facial fluting or thinning which, "in cases where the side-notches or basal portions were missing, . . . could be mistaken for fluted points of the Paleo-Indian period" (Coe 1964:64). While not an especially strong statement, it does reveal the formation of the concept. Further insight is offered by Ward's (1983:63) all too brief comments on the more recent investigations at the Hardaway site (see also Daniel 1992).

[2] The terminal point for the Archaic is no clearer than that for the Paleoindian and many researchers suggest a terminal date of 4,000 B.P. rather than 3,000 B.P. There is also the question of whether ceramics, such as the fiber-tempered Stallings ware, will be included as Archaic, or will be included with the Woodland. Oliver, for example, argues that the inclusion of ceramics with Late Archaic attributes "complicates and confuses classification and interpretation needlessly" (Oliver 1981:20). He comments that according to the original definition of the Archaic, it "represents a preceramic horizon" and that "the presence of ceramics provides a convenient marker for separation of the Archaic and Woodland periods (Oliver 1981:21). Others would counter that such an approach ignores cultural continuity and forces an artificial, and perhaps unrealistic, separation. Sassaman and Anderson (1994:38-44), for example, include Stallings and Thom's Creek wares in their discussion of "Late Archaic Pottery." While this issue has been of considerable importance along the Carolina

with the Paleoindian Period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. Associated with this is a reliance on a broad spectrum of small mammals, although the white tailed deer was likely the most commonly exploited animal. Archaic period assemblages, exemplified by corner-notched and broad-stemmed projectile points, are fairly common, perhaps because the swamps and drainages offered especially attractive ecotones.

Some researchers (see for example, Ward 1983:65) suggest that there was a noticeable population increase from the Paleoindian into the Early Archaic. This has tentatively been associated with a greater emphasis on foraging. Diagnostic Early Archaic artifacts include the Kirk Corner Notched point. As previously discussed, Palmer points may be included with either the Paleoindian or Archaic period, depending on theoretical perspective. As the climate became hotter and drier than the previous Paleoindian period, resulting in vegetational changes, it also affected settlement patterning as evidenced by a long-term Kirk phase midden deposit at the Hardaway site (Coe 1964:60). This is believed to have been the result of a change in subsistence strategies.

Settlements during the Early Archaic suggest the presence of a few very large, and apparently intensively occupied, sites which can best be considered base camps. Hardaway might be one such site. In addition, there were numerous small sites which produce only a few artifacts — these are the "network of tracks" mentioned by Ward (1983:65). The base camps produce a wide range of artifact types and raw materials which has suggested to many researchers long-term, perhaps seasonal or multi-seasonal, occupation. In contrast, the smaller sites are thought of as special purpose or foraging sites (see Ward 1983:67).

Middle Archaic (8,000 to 6,000 B.P.) diagnostic artifacts include Morrow Mountain, Guilford, Stanly and Halifax projectile points. Much of our best information on the Middle Archaic comes from sites investigated west of the Appalachian Mountains, such as the work by Jeff Chapman and his students in the Little Tennessee River Valley (for a general overview see Chapman 1977, 1985a, 1985b). There is good evidence that Middle Archaic lithic technologies changed dramatically. End scrapers, at times associated with Paleoindian traditions, are discontinued, raw materials tend to reflect the greater use of locally available materials, and mortars are initially introduced. Associated with these technological changes there seem to also be some significant cultural modifications. Prepared burials begin to more commonly occur and storage pits are identified. The work at Middle Archaic river valley sites, with their evidence of a diverse floral and faunal subsistence base, seems to stand in stark contrast to Caldwell's Middle Archaic "Old Quartz Industry" of Georgia and the Carolinas, where axes, choppers, and ground and polished stone tools are very rare.

Among the most common of all Middle Archaic artifacts is the Morrow Mountain Stemmed projectile point. Originally divided into two varieties by Coe (1964:37,43) based primarily on the size of the blade and the stem. Morrow Mountain I points had relatively small triangular blades with short, pointed stems. Morrow Mountain II points had longer, narrower blades with long, tapered stems. Coe suggested a temporal sequence from Morrow Mountain I to Morrow Mountain II. While this has been rejected by some archaeologists, who suggest that the differences are entirely related to the life-stage of the point, the debate is far from settled and Coe has considerable support for his scenario.

The Morrow Mountain point is also important in our discussions since it represents a

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and Georgia coasts, it has never affected the Piedmont, which seems to have embraced pottery far later, well into the conventional Woodland period. The importance of the issue in the Sandhills, unfortunately, is not well known.

departure from the Carolina Stemmed Tradition. Coe has suggested that the groups responsible for the Middle Archaic Morrow Mountain (and the later Guilford points) were intrusive ("without any background" in Coe's words) into the North Carolina Piedmont, from the west, and were contemporaneous with the groups producing Stanly points (Coe 1964:122-123; see also Phelps 1983:23). Phelps, building on Coe, refers to the Morrow Mountain and Guilford as the "Western Intrusive horizon." Sassaman (1995) has recently proposed a scenario for the Morrow Mountain groups which would support this west-to-east time-transgressive process. Abbott and his colleagues, perhaps unaware of Sassaman's data, dismiss the concept, commenting that the shear distribution and number of these points "makes this position wholly untenable" (Abbott et al. 1995:9).

The controversy surrounding Morrow Mountain also includes its posited date range. Coe (1964:123) did not expect the Morrow Mountain to predate 6500 B.P., yet more recent research in Tennessee reveals a date range of about 7500 to 6500 B.P. Sassaman and Anderson (1994:24) observe that the South Carolina dates have never matched the antiquity of their more western counterparts and suggest continuation to perhaps as late as 5500 B.P. In fact they suggest that even later dates are possible since it can often be difficult to separate Morrow Mountain and Guilford points.

A recently defined point is the MALA. The term is an acronym standing for Middle Archaic and Late Archaic, the strata in which these points were first encountered at the Pen Point site (38BR383) in Barnwell County, South Carolina (Sassaman 1985). These stemmed and notched lanceolate points were originally found in a context suggesting a single-episode event with variation not based on temporal variation. The original discussion was explicitly worded to avoid application of a typology, although as Sassaman and Anderson (1994:27) note, the "type" has spread into more common usage. There are possible connections with both the Halifax points of North Carolina and the Benton points of the middle Tennessee River valley, while the "heartland" for the MALA appears confined to the lower middle Coastal Plain of South Carolina.

The available information has resulted in a variety of competing settlement models. Some argue for increased sedentism and a reduction of mobility (see Goodyear et al. 1979:111). Ward argues that the most appropriate model is one which includes relatively stable and sedentary hunters and gatherers "primarily adapted to the varied and rich resource base offered by the major alluvial valleys" (Ward 1983:69). While he recognizes the presence of "inter-riverine" sites, he discounts explanations which focus on seasonal rounds, suggesting "alternative explanations . . . [including] a wide range of adaptive responses." Most importantly, he notes that:

> the seasonal transhumance model and the sedentary model are opposite ends of a continuum, and in all likelihood variations on these two themes probably existed in different regions at different times throughout the Archaic period (Ward 1983:69).

Others suggest increased mobility during the Archaic (see Cable 1982). Sassaman (1983) has suggested that the Morrow Mountain phase people had a great deal of residential mobility, based on the variety of environmental zones they are found in and the lack of site diversity. The high level of mobility, coupled with the rapid replacement of these points, may help explain the seemingly large numbers of sites with Middle Archaic assemblages. Curiously, the later Guilford phase sites are not as widely distributed, perhaps suggesting that only certain micro-environments were used (cf. Ward [1983:68-69] who would likely reject the notion that substantially different environmental zones are, in fact, represented).

Recently Abbott et al. argue for a

combination of these models, noting that the almost certain increase in population levels probably resulted in a contraction of local territories. With small territories there would have been significantly greater pressure to successfully exploit the limited resources by more frequent movement of camps. They discount the idea that these territories could have been exploited from a single base camp without horticultural technology. Abbott and his colleagues conclude, "increased residential mobility under such conditions may in fact represent a common stage in the development of sedentism" (Abbott et al. 1995:9).

From excavations at a Sandhills site in Chesterfield County, South Carolina, Gunn and his colleague (Gunn and Wilson 1993) offer an alternative model for Middle Archaic settlement. He accepts that the uplands were desiccated from global warming, but rather than limiting occupation, this environmental change made the area more attractive for residential base camps. Gunn and Wilson suggest that the open, or fringe, habitat of the upland margins would have been attractive to a wide variety of plant and animal species.

The Late Archaic, usually dated from 6,000 to 3,000 or 4,000 B.P., is characterized by the appearance of large, square stemmed Savannah River projectile points (Coe 1964). These people continued to intensively exploit the uplands much like earlier Archaic groups with, the bulk of our data for this period coming from the Uwharrie region in North Carolina.

One of the more debated issues of the Late Archaic is the typology of the Savannah River Stemmed and its various diminutive forms. Oliver, refining Coe's (1964) original Savannah River Stemmed type and a small variant from Gaston (South 1959:153-157), developed a complete sequence of stemmed points that decrease uniformly in size through time (Oliver 1981, 1985). Specifically, he sees the progression from Savannah River Stemmed to Small Savannah River Stemmed to Gypsy Stemmed to Swannanoa from about 5000 B.P. to about 1,500 B.P. He also notes that the latter two forms are associated with Woodland pottery.

This reconstruction is still debated with a number of archaeologists expressing concern with what they see as typological overlap and ambiguity. They point to a dearth of radiocarbon dates and good excavation contexts at the same time they express concern with the application of this typology outside the North Carolina Piedmont (see, for a synopsis, Sassaman and Anderson 1990:158-162, 1994:35).

In addition to the presence of Savannah River points, the Late Archaic also witnessed the introduction of steatite vessels (see Coe 1964:112-113; Sassaman 1993), polished and pecked stone artifacts, and grinding stones. Some also include the introduction of fiber-tempered pottery about 4000 B.P. in the Late Archaic (for a discussion see Sassaman and Anderson 1994:38-44). This innovation is of special importance along the Georgia and South Carolina coasts, but seems to have had only minimal impact in the uplands in North Carolina.

There is evidence that during the Late Archaic the climate began to approximate modern climatic conditions. Rainfall increased resulting in a more lush vegetation pattern. The pollen record indicates an increase in pine which reduced the oak-hickory nut masts which previously were so widespread. This change probably affected settlement patterning since nut masts were now more isolated and concentrated. From research in the Savannah River valley near Aiken, South Carolina, Sassaman has found considerable diversity in Late Archaic site types with sites occurring in virtually every upland environmental zone. He suggests that this more complex settlement pattern evolved from an increasingly complex socio-economic system. While it is unlikely that this model can be simply transferred to the Piedmont of South Carolina without an extensive review of site data and micro-environmental data, it does demonstrate one approach to understanding the transition

from Archaic to Woodland.

Woodland Period

As previously discussed, there are those who see the Woodland beginning with the introduction of pottery suggestive of influences from northern cultures. In the Piedmont, the Early Woodland is marked by a pottery type defined by Coe (1964:27-29) as Badin[3]. This pottery is identified as having very fine sand in the paste with an occasional pebble. Coe identified cord-marked, fabric-marked, net-impressed, and plain surface finishes. Beyond this pottery little more is known about the makers of the Badin wares that is known about those who made New River wares.

The dominant Middle Woodland ceramic type is typically identified as the Yadkin series. Characterized by a crushed quartz temper the pottery includes surface treatments of cord-marked, fabric-marked, and a very few linear check-stamped sherds (Coe 1964:30-32). It is regrettable that several of the seemingly "best" Yadkin sites, such as the Trestle site (31AN19) explored by Peter Cooper (Ward 1983:72-73), have never been published.

In some respects the Late Woodland (1,200 B.P. to 400 B.P.) may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different from that observed for the previous 500-700 years. From the vantage point of the Middle Savannah Valley Sassaman and his colleagues note that, "the Late Woodland is difficult to delineate typologically from its antecedent or from the subsequent Mississippian period" (Sassaman et al. 1990:14). This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see Ferguson 1971).

The Late Woodland is typically associated with small triangular points such as Uwharrie, Caraway, Pee Dee, and Clarksville (Coe n.d., 1964:49; Oliver 1985; South 1959:144-146). The characteristic pottery is the Uwharrie series which contains crushed quartz (one characteristic of which is its tendency to protrude through the wall of the pottery). This series included cord-marked and net-impressed surface treatments. The ware was described by Coe in the unpublished Poole site report (Coe n.d.).[4] This pottery appears to represent an evolution fro the earlier Yadkin wares (Coe 1995:156). Of equal interest is a radiocarbon date of A.D. 1610, suggesting that this pottery lasted well into the protohistoric. Coe also notes that "Town Creek and other villages situated along the fall line between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain seem to have formed a southern boundary for the Production and use of Uwharrie ware," which he suggests was made by the ancestors of the Sara, Tutelo, Occaneechi, Saponi, and Keyauwee (Coe 1995:158). If this is correct, Uwharrie pottery may be exceedingly rare in the Piedmont.

Mississippian Period

The Mississippian in the central Piedmont of North Carolina is intimately tied to the Pee Dee. In spite of this Ward only briefly mentions the culture in his synthesis of the North Carolina Piedmont (Ward 1983:63) and until recently one had to piece together ideas and concepts largely from Reid's (1967) typology of the pottery (which does provide a little background) or Ferguson's Appalachian Mississippian, which included

[3]The ceramics suggest clear regional differences during the Woodland which seem to only be magnified during the later phases. Ward (1983:71), for example, notes that "marked distinctions" between the pottery from the Buggs Island and Gaston Reservoirs and that from the south-central Piedmont.

[4]This study was intended to be published under a monograph series entitled, *University of North Carolina Laboratory of American Archaeology Publications,* but was never completed. The work was conducted in 1936, although the ensuing report is undated.

central and northern Georgia, the Middle Chattahoochee River Valley, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. More recently Coe (1995) has filled in at least some of the blanks in Pee Dee research, although much still remains to be explored.

However, the Mississippian in the eastern portion of the Appalachians differs from the rest of the southeast. Known in this area as the Pisgah Phase, villages were known to have been located in floodplain environments and often had platform mounds associated with the settlement (Ward and Davis 1999:160). Most of the information on the Pisgah culture was obtained from excavations from the Warren Wilson Site (31BN29), Garden Creek Mound 1 (31HW1), Brunk (31BN151), and Plum Grove (40WG17), see for example Dickens (1970), Keel (1976), and Moore 1981 and 2002). One such site, the McDowell site (31MC41), is located immediately northwest of the current survey area.

The Pisgah Phase has produced such artifacts as pipes, discs, beads, animal head effigies, and toy vessels (see Mohler et al. 2001; Dickens 1976; Keel 1976; Moore 1981). In general these people were sedentary with smaller sites clustered around a larger village with a mound (Ward and Davis 1999:160). Their subsistence was based on deer, bear, wild turkey, squirrels, rabbits, opossum, raccoons, fish, and turtles (Ward and Davis 1999:169-171; Runquist 1979).

The McDowell site (31MC41), however, appears to exhibit slightly different characteristics from the Pisgah Phase and was hence referred to as the Pleasant Garden Phase (A.D. 1400-1600) (see Moore 2002). According to Moore (2002: 178), the Pleasant Garden Phase blends both Pisgah and Burke attributes of surface treatment, temper, and form.

For example, Pisgah Phase (1000-1550) ceramics tend to have a rectilinear complicated stamped pattern with some plain sherds and have tempers of soapstone, grit, and coarse sand (Moore 2002: 178). Burke Phase (A.D. 1400-1600) ceramics tend to have more curvilinear complicated stamped, plain, and burnished sherds with tempers of soapstone and sand (Moore 2002:178). Both of these ceramics have been found at the McDowell site (Moore 2002: 178).

Moore (2002:211) suggests that the people of the McDowell site "participated in regional activities with Pisgah Phase peoples to the west and Burke Phase peoples to the east" which may account for the different types of ceramics found. While trade may have been a factor, Moore (2002: 91) also proposes the idea that the McDowell site is a late Pisgah assemblage.

A discrepancy (which may not necessarily be trade related) with the McDowell site compared with other Pisgah sites (such as the Warren Wilson site, the Garden Creek site, and the Brunk site) is the percentage of certain decorations on the pottery. These known Pisgah Phase sites generally had 75% rectilinear, 15-20% check stamped, and less than 3% plain ceramics (Moore 2002:91). The McDowell site, however, had less than 50% rectilinear stamping, almost no check stamping, but had 20% plain ceramics (Moore 2002:91).

Historic Synopsis

For a basic overview of McDowell County, see Fossett's (1976) *History of McDowell County*. While European discovery began along the coast of North Carolina, the expeditions of Juan Pardo, which explored the Piedmont between 1528 and 1568, recorded an Indian village near the modern Lincoln County area, east of the current survey area (Jordan and Southerlin 1997). In addition, Hernando de Soto's party camped in present day Marion, near the village of Xuala which was later explored by Pardo (Hudson et al. 1984). It was after these expeditions that diseases introduced by the explorers dramatically decreased the numbers of Native Americans, causing entire villages to disappear (Jordan and Southerlin 1997).

By the mid eighteenth century, white

settlers, including Scots-Irish and Germans, were moving into the Piedmont. The farmland was rich in nutrients and inexpensive to buy due to the sparsely settled areas in which the land was available (Jordan and Southerlin 1997).

There are reports that the Catawba and Cherokee Indians that were living in the area at the time harassed the new settlers until the British army defeated the Cherokees in 1761. In 1763, the Catawbas made a peace agreement with the British (Jordan and Southerlin 1997).

A majority of the new settlers were subsistence farmers. Slave owners were rare due to the small size of most of the new farms. Corn, potatoes, beans, and peas were not uncommon on these farms, while some farms even owned horses, cows, hogs, and chickens (Jordan and Southerlin 1997).

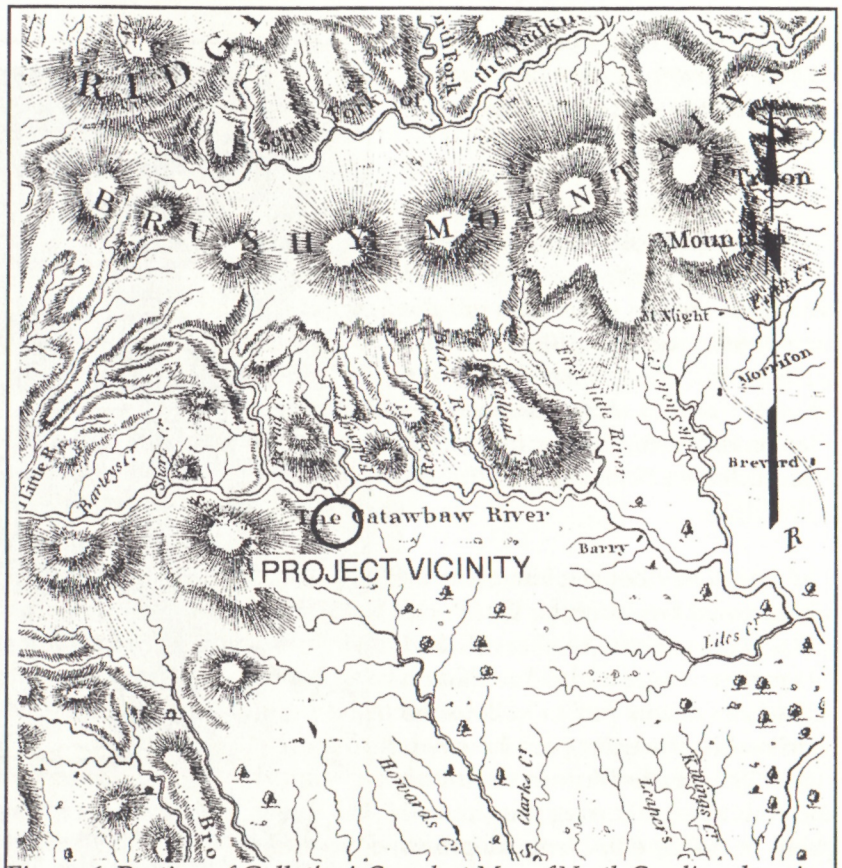

Figure 6. Portion of Collet's *A Compleat Map of North Carolina* showing the vicinity of the project area.

Intensive settlement ensued in the region in the early to mid nineteenth century. McDowell County was formed in 1842 from parts of Burke and Rutherford Counties (Corbitt 1950). Marion was established after 1842 as the county seat, named for General Francis Marion, the Revolutionary War leader (Work Projects Administration 1939:417). In Marion, until a courthouse was built, Colonel Jonathan L. Carson used his house for court sessions and used his attic as a temporary jail (Work Projects Administration 1939:417). This house, also known as the McDowell house (31MC200) also housed Joseph McDowell, a Revolutionary War Colonel, and is currently a museum.

Many improvements were made in transportation after the American Revolution, including the development of the railroad that first arrived in Marion in 1870 (Mohler et al. 2001). The war had divided the settlers who, with little income, had even pitted relatives to fight against each other. However, after the war, there was an increase of wealth as cash crops and other manufactured items were exported (Jordan and Southerlin 1997). Cotton production, and subsequently the number of slaves, increased, but the number of slave holders remained constant.

Lumber, textile, and furniture manufacture became important industries in McDowell County during the early twentieth century. An 1896 account lists that McDowell County not only excelled in timber, but also had "two tanneries, a tobacco factory, a rectifying establishment and several minor industries (State Board of Agriculture 1896:361). In 1916, the

Southern Power Company (now Duke Power Company) began construction on Lake James on the Catawba River.

In the early twentieth century, Marion had railway connections in five direction and thrived as a gateway to the mountain region (Bishir et al. 1999:163). The town had many hotels, and industries such as tanneries, furniture manufactories, and three textile mills (Bishir et al. 1999:163).

The depression heavily impacted Marion. After the World War, many textile workers striked to restore wages and reduce hours. The depression put an end to the strikes for the most part, however in 1929, a protest ensued to restore a work bonus. During this protest, which became violent, deputies killed six demonstrators and wounded twenty others (Glass 1992:69).

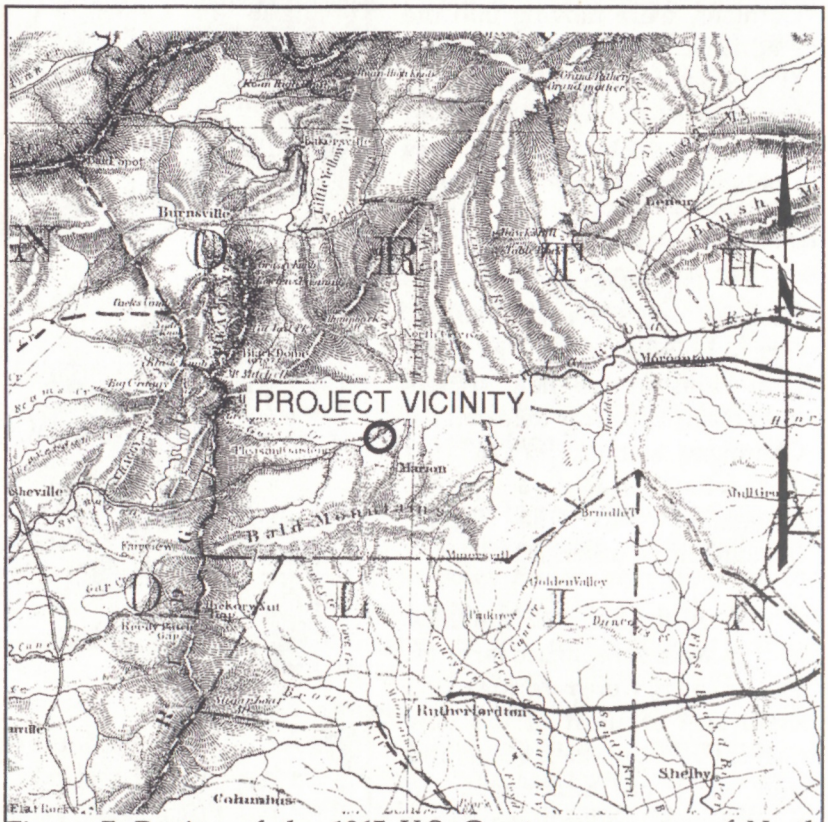

Figure 7. Portion of the 1865 U.S. Coast survey map of North Carolina showing the project area.

The region's timber supply was almost depleted by the 1940s, but a second growth forest now supports the current industry (Robinson 1994). Other significant industries include sand mining and stone quarrying.

METHODS

Archaeological Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques involved the placement of shovel tests at 50-foot intervals along transects also placed every 50 feet.

All soil would be screened through ¼-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially by transect. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least 1.0 foot or until subsoil was encountered. All cultural remains would be collected, except for mortar and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

Should sites (defined by the presence of three or more artifacts from either surface survey or shovel tests within a 50 feet area) be identified, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. These tests would be placed at 25 foot intervals in a simple cruciform pattern until two consecutive negative shovel tests were encountered. The information required for completion of North Carolina site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigators.

These proposed techniques were implemented with few modifications. Transects were set up from the south portion of the tract along US 70 with shovel tests heading north along these lines. A total of 255 shovel tests were excavated along 21 transect lines. In addition, three deep cuts (measuring approximately 20 feet in length by 4 feet in depth) and two mechanical scrapes (measuring approximately 20 feet by 5 feet) were excavated.

The GPS positions were taken with a Garmin GPS 76 rover that tracks up to twelve satellites, each with a separate channel that is continuously being read. The benefit of parallel channel receivers is their improved sensitivity and ability to obtain and hold a satellite lock in difficult situations, such as in forests or urban environments where signal obstruction is a frequent problem. This was not a vital concern for the study area.

GPS accuracy is generally affected by a number of sources of potential error, including errors with satellite clocks, multipathing, and selective availability. Satellite clock errors can occur when the satellite's clock is off by as little as a millisecond, or when a slightly-askew orbit results in a distance error. Multipathing occurs when the signal bounces off trees, chain-link fences, or bodies of water. Multipathing probably did not occur in the project area due to the lack of tree cover. The source of most extreme GPS errors is selective availability (SA), which has been turned off by the Department of Defense.

Site Evaluation

Archaeological sites will be evaluated for further work based on the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead federal agency, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

The criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places is described by 36CFR60.4, which states:

> the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and

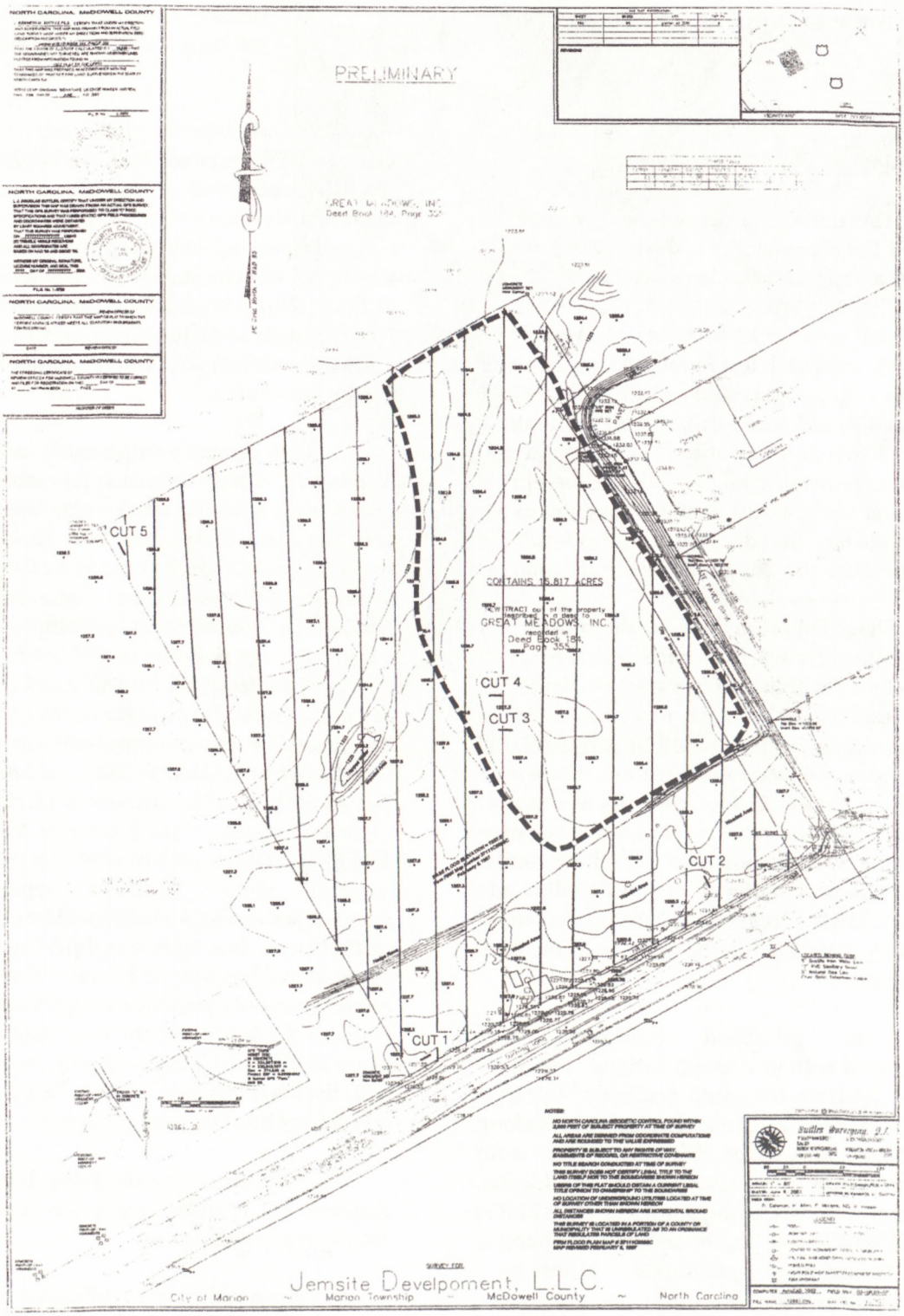

Figure 8. Survey area with transects, cut lines, and site boundary.

culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

c. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

d. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

National Register Bulletin 36 (Townsend et al. 1993) provides an evaluative process that contains five steps for forming a clearly defined explicit rationale for either the site's eligibility or lack of eligibility. Briefly, these steps are:

- identification of the site's data sets or categories of archaeological information such as ceramics, lithics, subsistence remains, architectural remains, or sub-surface features;

- identification of the historic context applicable to the site, providing a framework for the evaluative process;

- identification of the important research questions the site might be able to address, given the data sets and the context;

- evaluation of the site's archaeological integrity to ensure that the data sets were

Figure 9. Vegetable stand and farm buildings currently standing on the project tract.

sufficiently well preserved to address the research questions; and

- identification of important research questions among all of those which might be asked and answered at the site.

This approach, of course, has been developed for use documenting eligibility of sites being actually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places where the evaluative process must stand alone, with relatively little reference to other documentation and where typically only one site is being considered. As a result, some aspects of the evaluative process have been summarized, but we have tried to focus on an archaeological site's ability to address significant research topics within the context of its available data sets.

Laboratory Analysis

The cleaning and analysis of artifacts was conducted in Columbia at the Chicora Foundation laboratories. These materials have been catalogued and accessioned for curation at the Office of State Archaeology, the closest regional repository. The site form for the identified archaeological site has been filed with the Office of State Archaeology. Field notes and photographic materials have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to that agency as soon as the project is complete.

Analysis of the collections followed professionally accepted standard with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains. In general, the temporal, cultural, and typological classifications of prehistoric materials were defined by such authors as Coe (1964) and Moore (1981 and 2002).

RESULTS OF SURVEY

Introduction

As a result of this cultural resources survey one archaeological site (31MC309) was identified. This site is an Early Mississippian site with sparse remains. This site has poor integrity due to cultivation and it is unlikely that the site will be able to address significant research questions.

Archaeological Resources

31MC309

Site 31MC309 consists of a surface and subsurface scatter of Woodland to Mississippian artifacts and one fragment of nineteenth century stoneware. The site is situated in the upland flats at an elevation of about 1220 feet AMSL. The site is about 800 feet south of the Catawba River.

Vegetation on the tract includes a patch of second growth hardwoods in the southeast corner, otherwise, the remaining portion is a cultivated field. The entire site area is within the cultivated field. A central UTM coordinate for the site is E405755 N3951322 (NAD27 datum). The site is accessible off US 70 to the south.

Shovel tests were completed at the originally proposed 50-foot intervals with six of 90 shovel tests in the site area positive (7%). The extent of the site was determined by surface collections, with the site dimensions estimated to be 800 feet north-south by 350 feet east-west.

The shovel tests in the site area produced soil profiles resembling Rosman loams. Rosman soils have an Ap horizon of dark brown (10YR3/3) loam to a depth of almost 1.0 foot over a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loam which can occur to over 3 feet in depth.

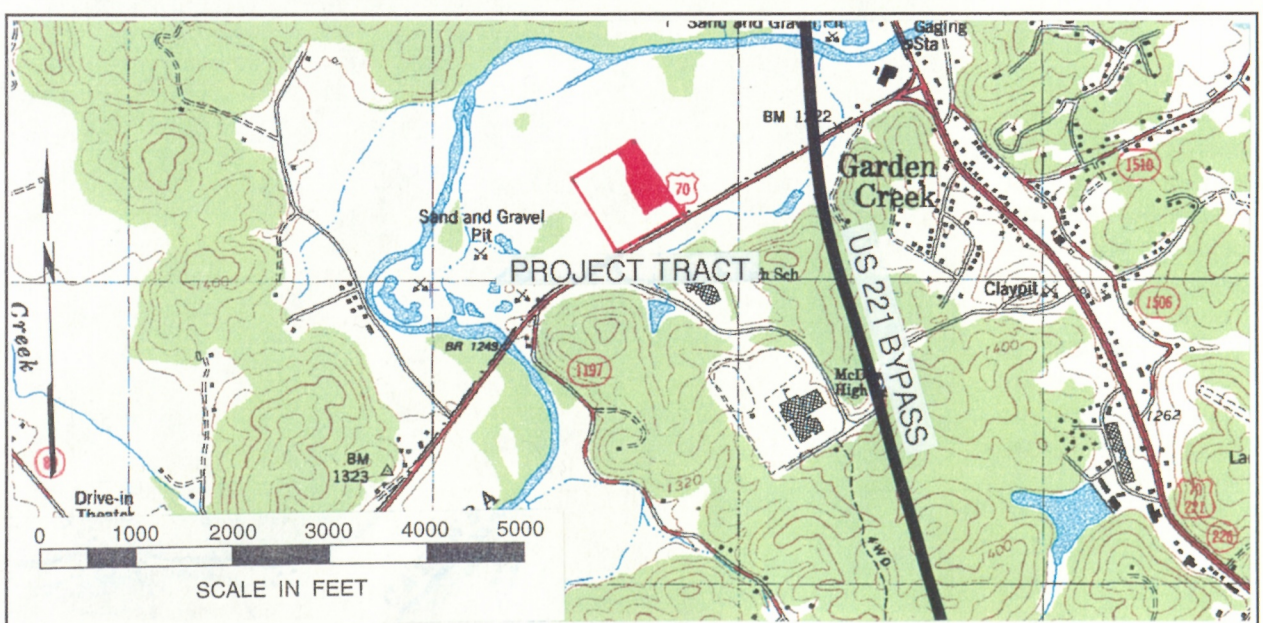

Figure 10. Topographic map showing location of the site.

Table 1.
Recovered Artifacts

	N100 E200	N150 E200	N300 E150	N300 E200	N350 E300	N400 E150	Surface	TOTAL
Flakes, metavolcanic		1	1	1			12	15
Flakes, quartz							1	1
Flakes, quartzite							2	2
Flakes, steatite							3	3
Biface tip, quartz							1	1
Sherds, plain	1				1	1	6	9
Sherds, complicated stamp							5	5
Sherds, complicated stamp, rectilinear							1	1
Sherds, unidentified							3	3
Sherds, rim, unidentified							2	2
Hammerstone							1	1
Stoneware, brown salt glazed							1	1
TOTAL	1	1	1	1	1	1	38	44

Note: Sherds represent a variety of tempers such as sand, grit, and steatite

The artifacts collected represent what Moore (2002) calls the Pleasant Garden Phase (A.D. 1400-1600) of artifacts. The sherds display rectilinear complicated-stamped motifs and are tempered with steatite, like those sherds found just north of the site at 31MC41, the McDowell site (see Ward and Davis 1999:190-191; Moore (2002:197-211). The sherds and few lithic flakes found are small in size and widely dispersed with no true area of concentration. One small fragment of nineteenth century stoneware was also among the surface collection.

31MC309 is extremely sparse and widely dispersed. Even the positive shovel tests produced no more than a single specimen in each test. Modern cultivation has further dispersed the site and broken the artifacts into very small fragments. Subsurface testing failed to uncover any features. In addition, the site appears to extend to the east off the current survey tract where a commercial mall is currently located. Two 20 foot by 5 foot mechanical cuts were stripped in the site area, but no subsurface features were found (Figures 11 and 12).

It is possible that the current site may be associated with or a locus of 31MC41. The site is disturbed and no intact features have been found. Likewise, the small size of recovered sherds and absence of larger specimens suggests that no features are being plowed out.

The data sets, therefore, consist only of fragment sherds and occasional lithics, with no indication of faunal remains or feature preservation. Although Moore (2002) provides an

Figure 11. Shoveling the cut made at the site.

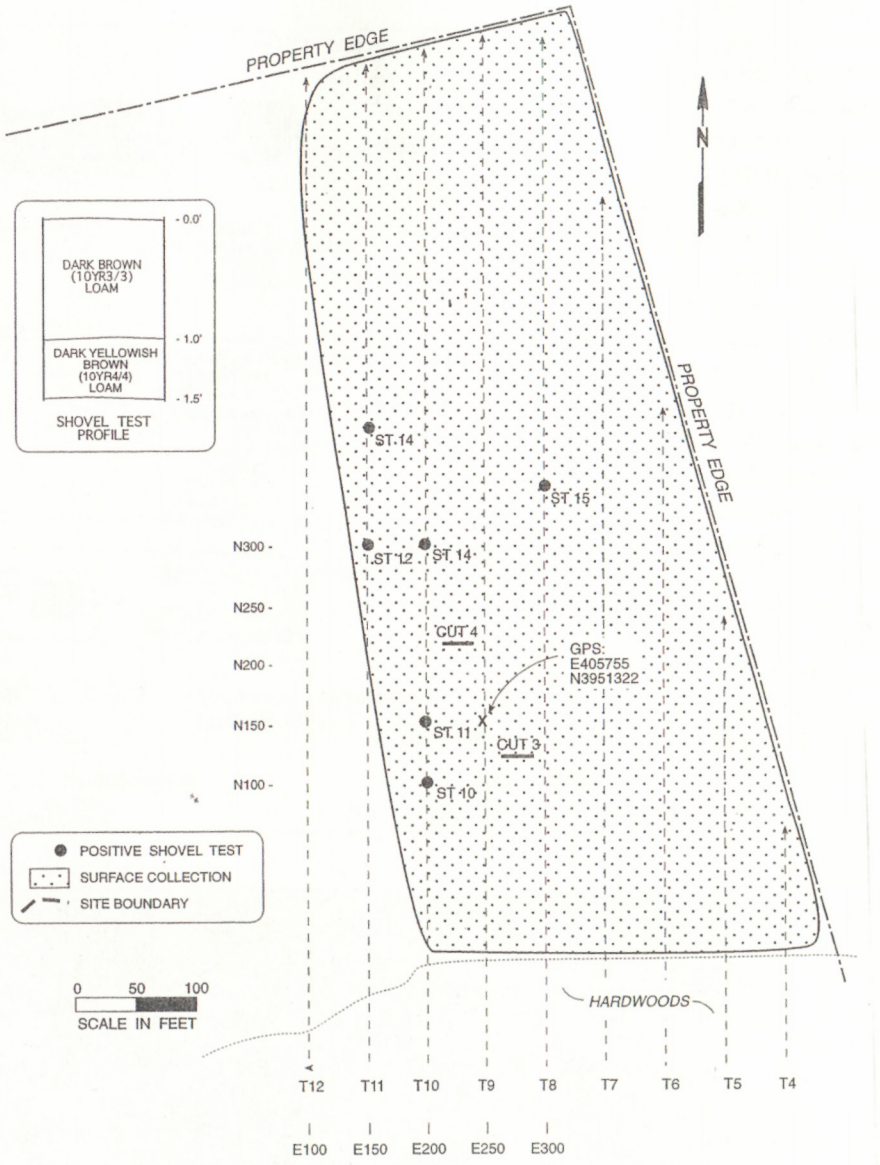

Figure 12. Sketch map and soil profile for the site.

exceptional context and there are a large number of significant research questions appropriate for sites with Pleasant Garden Phase ceramics, this site fails to exhibit either the data sets or integrity to address those questions.

Site 31MC309 is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Other Testing

Shovel testing revealed two anomalous areas in the survey tract. Along the southern edge of the property, adjacent to US 70, we failed to identify a clear Ap horizon over expected subsoil. Instead we found an Ap horizon over clays and mixed clays. Conversations with the individual farming the property revealed that these areas

were road fill that had been added to build up what had previously been very low and wet. He recalled a ditch running through the area to the east of the vegetable stand, while to the west he remembered a steep drop off from the road into an area that was very low and wet. This oral history suggested that no further testing needed to be done, but in speaking with John Mintz at the Department of Cultural Resources, he explained that the Department of Transportation had done some deep testing further along US 70, finding some buried soils. As a result, we opened two deep cuts at the southwest and southeast corners of the project to further explore these two areas (identified as Cuts 1 and 2, respectively).

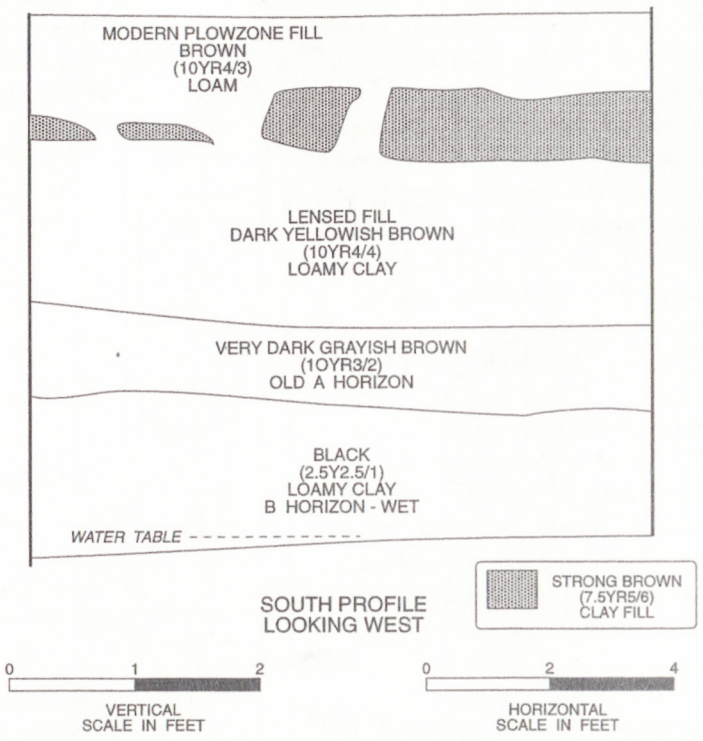

Figure 13. Sketch map of Cut 1.

Shovel testing also failed to identify clearly defined subsoil in a small portion of the northwest corner of the project area. We determined that this area, too, should be examined using a single deep cut (Cut 5).

Figure 14. View of Cut 1 looking southwest.

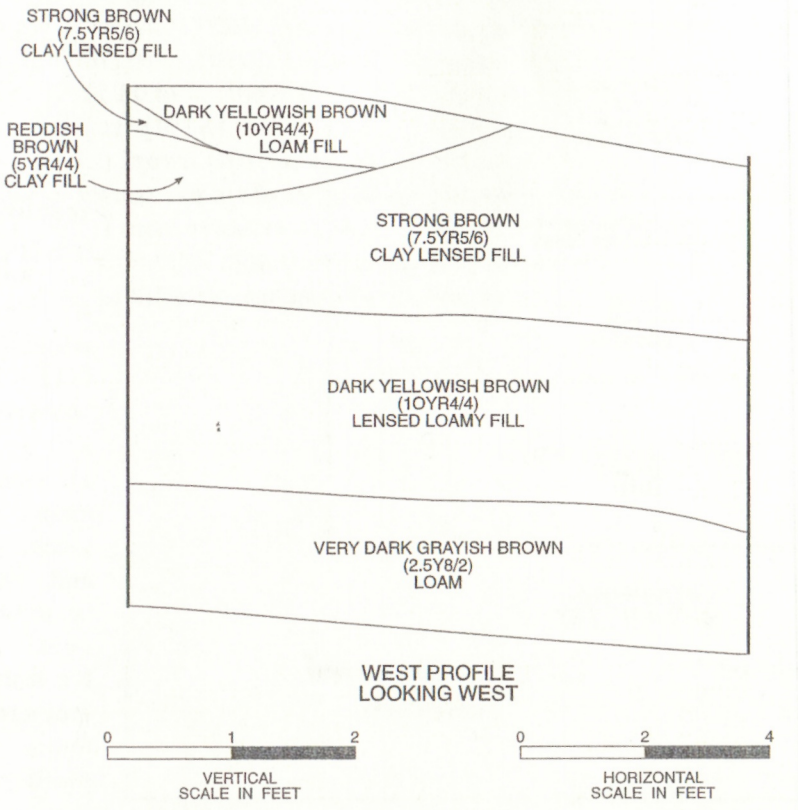

Figure 15. Sketch map of Cut 2.

Cut 1 (Figures 14 and 15) had a modern plowzone of brown (10YR4/3) loam to a depth of about 1.0 feet with portions of strong brown (7.5YR5/6) clay fill found throughout. Below this was a layer of lensed fill consisting of dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loamy clay which occurred to a depth of about 2.5 feet. Below this is a 0.7 foot layer of very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) loam which was the remains of the old A horizon. The subsurface consisted of a black (2.5Y2.5/1) loamy clay. This B horizon was wet and at about 4.2 feet, the water table was encountered.


Figure 16. View of Cut 2 looking northwest.

Examination of the profile failed to reveal any features or artifacts. The cut confirms that this area (both prehistorically and historically) was low and very wet, being brought into cultivation only after the addition of road fill.

Cut 2 (Figures 16 and 17)had a surface layer of strong brown (7.5YR5/6) clay lensed fill, dark

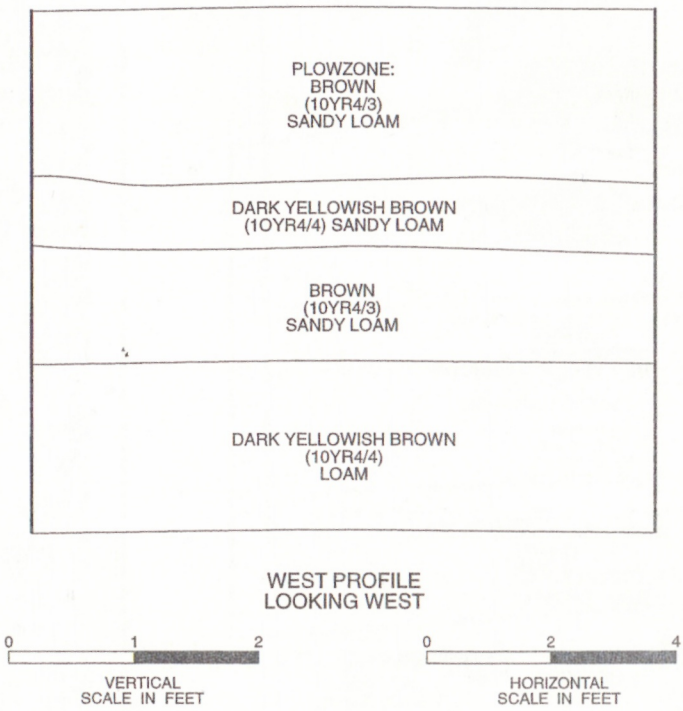

Figure 17. Sketch map of Cut 5.

consisted of a very dark grayish brown (2.5Y8/2) loam. This work also confirmed the accounts of this area being low and wet. After the addition of the fill here; however, the area was allowed to grow up in second growth and was not brought under cultivation. No features or artifacts were found in the profiles.

yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loam fill, and reddish brown (5YR4/4) clay fill over a strong brown (7.5YR5/6) clay lensed fill. Below this was a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) lensed loamy fill which occurred to about 3.2 feet in depth. The subsoil

Figure 18. View of Cut 5 looking west.

Cut 5 (Figure 18 and 19) consisted of a plowzone of brown (10YR4/3) sandy loam over a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) sandy loam to a depth of about 2.0 feet. Under these layers was a repeat of brown (10YR4/3) sandy loam over a dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4). We found no evidence of features or artifacts in the profiles of this cut. Nor is there evidence of any intentional fire. It is likely that this represents food deposits prior to the prehistoric occupation of nearby 31MC41.

CONCLUSIONS

This study involved the examination of approximately 17 acres of land for commercial development in Marion, northern McDowell County, North Carolina. Activities on the tract will include clearing, grubbing, grading, construction of utilities, and erection of structures. This study, conducted for Froehling & Robertson, Inc., provides the results of that investigation and is intended to assist that organization and its client comply with the historic preservation responsibilities associated with permitting the facility.

The survey consists of an area which is currently being cultivated. The tract is just west of an existing commercial development and just north of US 70. The northern and western pieces of land adjacent to the tract are also being cultivated.

One archaeological site (31MC3090) was identified during the survey. The site is an prehistoric surface and subsurface scatter of Woodland to Mississippian pottery. Due to the lack of integrity coupled with the inability to address significant research questions, this site is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and no additional management activities are recommended.

The surrounding areas are still fairly rural, although the area is being quickly developed for commercial properties.

It is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered during construction activities. As always, contractors should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office, or Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No further land altering activities should take place in the vicinity of these discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

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